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Letter dated 13 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith resolution No. 2/2000 of the Council of the Peoples' Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the deplorable atrocities being committed against Ethiopian civilians in Eritrea, issued on 13 June 2000.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fesseha A. **Tessema**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 13 June 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Resolution No. 2/2000 of the Council of the Peoples' Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the deplorable atrocities being committed against Ethiopian civilians in Eritrea

The Council of the Peoples' Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia:

Guided by the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, other international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law principles;

Noting that all Member States of the United Nations have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfil the obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international human rights instruments;

Mindful that Eritrea, as a party to the United Nations Organization, has an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the United Nations Charter and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Gravely concerned by the attacks against Ethiopian civilians and serious crimes and abuses committed by the Eritrean military police, the army and security personnel, as well as government-incited mob actions against Ethiopian nationals residing in Eritrea;

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to abide by the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their two Additional Protocols, as part of customary international law;

Noting with serious concern the fact that Ethiopian civilians remain the central target of the Eritrean regime since day one of its unprovoked aggression against Ethiopia;

Reiterating its concern with regard to the poor conditions of detention and the inhuman treatment of Ethiopian prisoners of war, to whom Eritrea refuses to give access to the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian agencies;

Deeply concerned about the gross, widespread and flagrant violations of the human rights of Ethiopian civilians by the Eritrean regime in its newly created concentration and slaughtering camps of Asmara, Sheketi, Maihabar, Massawa and other undisclosed localities;

Alarmed by the recent shocking reports of vindictive killings and indiscriminate attacks of Ethiopian nationals residing in Eritrea by the Eritrean regime;

1. Deplores the inhuman and barbaric acts of killing, torture, rape and similar atrocities being committed against Ethiopian nationals living in Eritrea by the Eritrean regime;

2. Expresses its dismay at the recent merciless manslaughter of Ethiopian nationals in the towns of Asmara, Keren, the village of Adi Gu'adad, Massawa, Adi Nefas and other localities currently being created by the Eritrean regime;

3. Strongly condemns the recent abduction of Ethiopian nationals and their subsequent forceful disappearance, in particular the abduction and forceful disappearance of 1,337 Ethiopians from the town of Keren, 3,000 Ethiopians from the town of Massawa and 20,000 Ethiopians from the town of Assab, the recent abduction of Ethiopians and their arbitrary detention in open fields, without food, shelter or medical assistance, in particular the abduction of 1,758 Ethiopians from the town of Mendefera and 1,394 Ethiopians from Dekemehari and their subsequent arbitrary detention in Sheketi and Maihabar respectively, and the recent arbitrary detention and inhuman treatment of thousands of Ethiopian nationals in prisons in Asmara and concentration camps in different localities;

4. Also condemns the widespread practices of violations and abuses of human rights and humanitarian law by the Eritrean regime, including the right to life, liberty and security of person and freedom from torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment of Ethiopian nationals throughout that country;

5. Urges the Eritrean Government:

- To respect fully all human rights and fundamental freedoms of Ethiopian nationals without any discrimination whatsoever in accordance with international human rights instruments;
- To halt immediately and without any precondition arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial and summary executions, disappearances and deportations of Ethiopian nationals;
- To respect fully international humanitarian laws, to protect civilians, to refrain from the wanton destruction and looting of Ethiopian civilian properties and to stop conscripting or enlisting Ethiopian nationals into its army of aggression;
- To ensure the immediate and unconditional release of civilian Ethiopian detainees in different concentration and killing camps;
- To disclose fully and immediately the whereabouts of Ethiopian nationals abducted from different towns and localities of Eritrea;
- To allow immediate and unconditional access to the International Committee of the Red Cross and other human rights and humanitarian agencies to all Ethiopian civilian detainees and prisoners of war;

6. Calls upon the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group/European Union Joint Assembly Human Rights Committee, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to appoint an independent body without delay to investigate fully reports of mass killings,

slaughter, disappearances and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of Ethiopian civilians at Asmara, Keren, Adi Guadad, Adi Nefas, Durfo and other concentration camps currently being created by the Eritrean regime;

7. Urges the international community to put pressure upon the Eritrean regime for the full and immediate disclosure of the whereabouts of Ethiopian nationals abducted from the Eritrean towns of Keren, Massawa, Assab and Asmara, as well as from different localities in that country;

8. Calls upon the international community to put pressure upon the Eritrean regime for the immediate and unconditional access by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other human rights and humanitarian agencies to all Ethiopian civilian detainees and prisoners of war, including the concentration camps of Massawa, Sheketi, Maihabar and Asmara;

9. Urges the international community to put pressure upon the Eritrean regime to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of civilian Ethiopian detainees in different concentration and killing camps of Eritrea;

10. Further calls upon the international community to take effective measures to halt the grave violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law by the Eritrean regime, and to bring to justice the perpetrators of these crimes;

11. Calls upon the international community to put pressure upon the Eritrean regime for the humane treatment of all Ethiopian civilian detainees, including provision of adequate medical treatment, food and water, as well as for the immediate and unconditional transfer of all detainees into sheltered places from the open desert and rocky concentration camps.